

Urban Pandits podcast of Akshat Gupta- The Hidden Hindu- Book 1 of...

TL:DR

The key idea of the video is that the speaker, a hotelier turned writer, reflects on his transformation after a life-threatening experience and discusses his book "The Hidden Hindu," exploring the concept of immortality and the challenges faced in publishing, while emphasizing the importance of deep thinking and conviction in writing.

Key Insights

Mythology, History, and Immortality

- "The Hidden Hindu" is a trilogy that combines elements of mythology and science fiction.
- The book introduces the concept of eight divine immortals from ancient Indian history, which differs from the commonly known seven immortals.
- The author decided to create their own eighth immortal instead of following the traditional scriptures, showing a unique perspective on immortality in Hinduism.
- The distinction between history and mythology is subjective and can change over time, as what is considered history now may be labeled as mythology in the future.
- The author faced challenges in getting their book published, but they are grateful to Penguin Publication for believing in their work and giving them the opportunity.
- The author's personal experience of losing his son influenced his choice to write in the historical genre, adding an emotional aspect to his decision.
- The idea that immortals would adapt to and utilize present technologies, just like how parents now know how to use touchscreens and voice modes on mobile phones.
- The concept of immortality raises questions about the purpose and meaning of life, as well as the different perspectives individuals have towards death and the value of living.

Personal Journey and Mental Health Awareness

- Living on Mud Island in Mumbai offers a unique experience, with a long journey to reach the center of the city and the refreshing sea breeze in the evenings.
- Coming from a family of hoteliers, Gupta emphasizes the importance of food and hospitality in his life, showcasing the significance of these industries in shaping his journey.
- Akshat Gupta shares his personal journey of battling depression and contemplating suicide, highlighting the importance of mental health awareness and support.

Long Summary

[00:00](#) □ A hotelier turned writer reflects on his transformation after a life-threatening experience, deciding to pursue his own happiness rather than the burden of his legacy.

- ○ The weather in Mumbai is unpredictable and varies from street to street, but the speaker's location on Mud Island provides a pleasant breeze in the evenings.
- ○ The speaker discusses their journey from Chhattisgarh to Mumbai.

being born into a family of hoteliers and serving people in the hospitality industry.

- The speaker's past was not beautiful, as they did not pursue writing as a profession and instead focused on their family and owning restaurants, but after experiencing a traumatic event in 2014 and surviving a suicide attempt, they realized a significant change in themselves.
- A hotelier turned writer reflects on his transformation after a life-threatening experience, deciding to pursue his own happiness rather than the burden of his legacy.

[06:23](#) □ The speaker discusses their book "The Hidden Hindu," a mythological science fiction trilogy, and its open-ended questions about the presence of divine immortals in Indian history, while acknowledging the different versions and stories in Hindu scriptures.

- ◦ Everyone, including presidents like Putin, Modi, and Rahul Gandhi, is struggling in some way, but the speaker's own story of struggle led him to Bombay where he now has six films and a book called "The Hidden Hindu," which is a mythological science fiction trilogy.
- The book trailer for "The Hidden Hindu" was created by an artist named Neeraj, with illustrations by Sagra and the background and font design taken care of by Neeraj as well.
- The speaker discusses the book and expresses their enjoyment of it, mentioning that it leaves many open-ended questions and refers to the presence of seven divine immortals in Indian history, while also acknowledging that there are eight divine immortals according to some sources.
- There are multiple Hindu scriptures with different versions and stories, some depicting Shiva as the supreme god and others depicting Vishnu as the supreme god.
- The book "The Hidden Hindu" was named as such because the author struggled to come up with a name for the main character and found the word "immortal" intriguing when broken down.

[13:56](#) □ The speaker discusses the use of Hindu names in the story and the main character's search for seven immortals, spanning different eras, while also addressing the historical context of India and challenges faced in publishing the book.

- ◦ The speaker discusses the reason behind using Hindu names in the story and explains that the main character is in search of seven immortals and has lived through different eras, including the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and has taken on various names, but all of them are Hindu names, and the speaker also mentions the historical context of different invaders and how India was predominantly Hindu until later times.
- There were no religions in the past, and the author faced challenges in getting his book published due to the use of the word "Hindu," but he clarified that the book is fictional and not meant to portray all Hindus as afraid.
- Ramayana and Mahabharata are not mythology, but rather history that may be considered mythology in the future, and there are mythological creatures in Hindu descriptions.
- The speaker expresses gratitude to the publishers and the team of dhoni entertainment for their support in getting his book published.
- The author chose to write in the genre of historical fiction due to personal reasons, including the loss of his son in 2014.
- The speaker has been working hard on writing a book for six years in the hopes that it will bring back their son and become an idol for their son to come back to.

[24:39](#) □ The speaker explores the concept of immortality and questions the existence of immortals, suggesting they would adapt to modern technologies, while discussing the desire for eternal life and the subjective

perception of immortality as a curse or a boon.

- - The speaker explores the concept of immortality and questions the existence and appearance of the seven immortals who supposedly roam the earth, suggesting that they would adapt to modern technologies.
 - A foreign person gifts something to a boy, sparking the protagonist's quest to search for immortals and hoping that his son will read the book and approach him.
 - The speaker discusses the concept of immortality and how it is both desired and seen as a curse, as humans are obsessed with staying young and alive forever, and scientists are currently researching ways to reverse aging and improve longevity.
 - The fear of death and the perception of immortality as a curse or a boon is subjective, as individuals have different perspectives on life and its value.

[31:25](#) □ The author discusses the storyline of his book, the inquiry into the identity of an immortal, the closure of characters in Hindu epics, the significance of symbols in the book, and an encounter with a reader who didn't know he was the writer.

- - Life can be perceived in different ways, either as a spectrum or as something beautiful and unique in every way.
 - The speaker briefly discusses the story line of the book and expresses excitement to read it, while also mentioning the hope to keep the narration interesting for the audience.
 - The experts question a nagor who claims to be immortal and has lived for thousands of years, leading to further inquiry about his identity.
 - The speaker discusses the fact that the epic writers of Mahabharata and Ramayana have given closure to every character, and claims to have met various Hindu figures throughout history, promising a concise and easily understandable 200-page story for first-time readers.
 - The symbols in the book are created by the author himself and hold significant meaning, which will be revealed gradually throughout the trilogy.
 - The author witnessed a girl sitting next to him who didn't know he was the writer, but asked to read his book.

[42:23](#) □ Writing is the most evolved form of communication, surpassing telepathy and hand gestures, and is uniquely human.

- - Symbols have important meanings in our lives and are a form of communication, similar to writing.
 - The speaker discusses different forms of expression and questions whether writing is an evolved form of communication compared to telepathy.
 - Writing and documenting information is the oldest and most evolved form of communication and storage, surpassing concepts like telepathy and hand gestures, and is uniquely human.

[48:04](#) □ The video discusses the history of ancient Indian doctors and their knowledge of the solar system, emphasizes the importance of being convinced with an idea before writing, and suggests that writers should think deeply about their ideas before expecting others to accept them.

- - The story brings the history of ancient Indian doctors and their knowledge of the solar system to the readers through historical facts and characters.
 - The speaker discusses the different skill sets required for writing and emphasizes the importance of being convinced with an idea before attempting to write, regardless of any formal training or courses.
 - Knowing a language is not necessary for thinking, as anyone can think regardless of language or even if they were born in isolation, as animals can also think.

- Writing is a reflection of personal experience and the desire to convey a message, and the speaker shares an anecdote about their writing being categorized differently by their mother, before asking for suggestions for aspiring writers.
- It is important for artistic and talented individuals to learn how to monetize their skills, and for writers, it is suggested to put more effort into thinking about what to write before actually writing it and to be fully convinced and convinced about their own ideas before expecting others to accept them.

[01:02:44](#) □ Money is not taught in our education system, causing a lack of understanding among teachers and students, but the concept of "struggle money" suggests focusing on the struggle rather than relying on pocket money for education; the release date for the web series and second part of the book is unknown, but announcements will be made in the next one to two months.

- ◦ The irony in our education system is that there is no subject on money, yet all professions ultimately revolve around it, and our teachers, who are the lowest paid educated employees, lack understanding of money, making it difficult for them to teach us how to handle and earn it.
- Money is a crucial subject that is not taught in our education system, and the idea of "struggle money" is a new concept that suggests focusing on the struggle rather than relying on pocket money for education.
- Life is a story of struggle and happiness, and even in the toughest times, one must be submissive and let time pass.
- The release date for the web series and the second part of the book is unknown due to a confidentiality clause, but the team is working hard and there will be announcements in the next one to two months.
- The speaker expresses gratitude for the conversation, praises the guest's thought process, recommends their book, and encourages viewers to subscribe to the channel.

Q&A

Q&A 1:

Q: What is the main theme of the content discussed in the document?

A: The main theme of the content discussed in the document is the exploration of the concept of immortality and its significance in Hindu mythology, as well as the challenges faced in publishing and the importance of deep thinking and conviction in writing.

Q&A 2:

Q: What is the significance of the book "The Hidden Hindu"?

A: The book "The Hidden Hindu" is a mythological science fiction trilogy that raises open-ended questions about the presence of divine immortals in Indian history. It explores different versions and stories in Hindu scriptures and acknowledges the presence of seven divine immortals, although some sources mention eight.

Q&A 3:

Q: How does the speaker reflect on their transformation after a life-threatening experience?

A: The speaker, a hotelier turned writer, reflects on their transformation after a life-threatening experience by deciding to pursue their own happiness rather than the burden of their legacy. They experienced a significant change in themselves and chose to focus on writing as a profession.

Q&A 4:

Q: What is the speaker's advice for aspiring writers?

Q: What is the importance of writing as a form of communication?

A: Writing is considered the most evolved form of communication, surpassing telepathy and hand gestures. It is uniquely human and serves as a means to express thoughts, convey messages, and document information. The document also discusses the importance of deep thinking and conviction in writing, emphasizing the need for writers to be fully convinced and convinced about their ideas before expecting others to accept them.

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